

WE CLAIM:

1. A connector to couple a first conduit to a second conduit, where said first conduit includes at least one elongate electrical means extending within, through out or about it, and said second conduit includes at least one electrical means extending within, throughout or about it, said connector comprising:

a male portion of a generally tubular shape connected to one end of said first or said second conduit, said male portion having one or more electrical contact means on the exterior of said male portion,

10 10 a female portion of a generally tubular shape connected to one end of the other said first conduit and said second conduit, said female portion having one or more electrical contact receiving means on the interior of said female portion,

15 wherein coupling of said male and said female portions causes said electrical contact means to engage with said electrical receiving means, said coupling simultaneously causing a gaseous and electrical connection between said first conduit and one of said second conduit and patient interface, and said coupling being able to be swivelled or twisted without disrupting said gaseous and electrical connection.

2. A connector according to claim 1 wherein said elongate electrical means and said electrical means are heating element means to heat said first conduit and second conduit.

3. A connector according to claim 1 wherein said elongate electrical means and said electrical means are wires that provide power to or enable sensing at said patient interface connected to at least one of said first and second conduits.

25 4. A connector according to claim 1 wherein said elongate electrical means and said electrical means include both a heating element means to heat at least one of said first conduit and second conduit and a wire to supply power to or enable sensing at least one of said first conduit, second conduit and said patient interface.

5. A connector according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said gases supply means is a humidifier.

6. A connector according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said gases supply means is an integrated blower and humidifier.

30 7. A connector according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said gases supply means is a positive pressure ventilation device.

- 9 -

8. A connector according to any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein said electrical contact means and said electrical contact receiving means are made from an electrically conductive material.

9. A connector as herein described with reference to the accompanying figures.